

IDAHO HAS MOST PROSPEROUS YEAR IN ITS HISTORY

Immigration During 1903 Was More Than 30,000,
All Settling on Agricultural Lands.

Products of Mine, Farm and Factory Reach a Total of
\$61,000,000, a Marked Gain Over
the Record of 1902.

IDAHO PRODUCTS IN 1903.

Gold	\$ 2,837,317
Silver	7,789,571
Lead	4,756,997
Sheep and wool	5,814,729
Cattle, horses and hogs	6,643,978
Hay	8,881,637
Wheat	9,924,000
Other farm products	3,759,000
Manufactures	4,800,000
Miscellaneous	5,223,750
Total	\$61,535,979

IDAHO has cast a clearer and larger shadow over the industrial, commercial, agricultural, horticultural and mineral fields of the west during the past twelve months than in any year of the state's history. The progress of the state has been marvelous in all lines. An explanation of this wonderful development is not difficult to find.

No less than 30,000 people, including the members as well as the heads of families, have settled upon agricultural lands within the year. These homeseekers are well distributed over the various counties, the bulk of them locating in the north and southeast. In Fremont and Bingham counties the influx of farmers has been extraordinary and land values have increased at a prodigious rate in those districts. Good farm lands are snapped up at figures which would have been considered exorbitant if suggested two years ago. That these lands are worth the prices asked for them is evidenced by actual returns in grains, fruits and sugar beets.

Even fair appearing tracts susceptible of irrigation are eagerly sought. The increased demand for leases on unsold state land is marked. The state realized in rentals during 1903 about \$19,000, an increase of \$11,000 over the previous year.

Settlers are penetrating new local-

The government reclamation department has during the past twelve months, withdrawn from entry no less than 3,000,000 acres of arid lands. Of this area it is predicted all but one-tenth will be returned after investigation.

At the present moment the federal government has under consideration plans for reclaiming vast tracts of land on the will of the people. The most advanced of these plans contemplates a canal system in the Boise and Payette valleys which will reclaim an additional 285,000 acres of excellent land in Ada and Canyon counties at a cost of \$3,200,000.

In the Rain Belt.

Prodigious crops of grain have been harvested in Idaho, Nez Perce and Latah counties in the season just closed. At the state fair in Boise magnificent wheat, taken from a field which averaged eighty-five bushels to the acre, was exhibited. This was grown without irrigation. The farmers in Idaho counties were equally successful with other grains as well as fruits. In Nez Perce county a system of electric tramways for the transportation of grain has been found to work admirably. Latah county has been farmed for years as a grain-growing section and its 1903 crop equaled all records for both quantity and quality.

Idaho fruit growers invaded the London, England, market for the first time

began to fall, but the contractors found it almost impossible to keep their men from stampeding to the mines, and about thirty-five miles of the road was unfinished when work was suspended for the season.

The Buffalo Hump district in Idaho county is attracting considerable attention. Stamp mills have been installed on a number of properties in this district and flattering reports of their operation are coming in.

The Boise county placers suffered from shortage of water last summer and their output, while up to the average, was not what it would have been under more favorable conditions. The quartz properties in this county are being tested for depth and are showing up remarkably well. Three or four transfers of valuable groups have recently taken place at handsome figures.

The Pearl properties, including the famous Checkmate, and proving to be good dividend payers and a bright future is predicted for this camp. An electric railroad from Boise to Pearl is now assured within a few months and the camp is expected to boom in the spring. Just at present the Atlanta district

TWIN FALLS ON SNAKE RIVER.

—Myers, Boise, Photo.

capital stock of these companies has been subscribed. Eliminating the "wildcat" proposition, it will readily be seen that Idaho is certain to witness enormous development in 1904.

Various Other Industries.

Official records show that 182 industrial companies, capitalized at \$22,783,655, were incorporated in Idaho during the past year. This number does not include many of the large irrigation projects in hand prior to Jan. 1, 1903.

Perhaps the most notable of these projects is the Idaho Sugar company, whose factory was recently opened on Sand Creek near Idaho Falls. This factory is now grinding over 500 tons of beets daily, for which the farmers are paid \$4.50 per ton. As the yield averages from fourteen to twenty tons per acre the benefit to the farmer is easily discerned.

Another factory of equal dimensions is in process of erection at Sugar City, near Rexburg, and a company has been incorporated to build a third factory near Caldwell in Canyon county. With an expenditure of over \$1,000,000 for each factory, and a handsome payroll attached, the prospects are flattering.

All things considered, the past year has been one of unparalleled prosperity in Idaho and the outlook for the future is as bright as the dawn. Increased railroad facilities assured, the irrigation of vast tracts of rich agricultural land in the immediate prospect, and the phenomenal development of mineral and timber resources on the verge of realization, the citizens of the state have every reason to be thankful that they live in "The Gem of the Mountains."

NEW ACTIVITY IN MT. PISGAH DISTRICT

Of the mining districts in Idaho, none gives greater promise than that of Mt. Pisgah. It is located in the extreme southeastern part of the state—Bingham county—and embraces within its borders the Caraboo mountain.

In the late summer this district was made famous by its placer diggings, which, since their discovery, have yielded many millions and are being profitably worked to the present day. A vast territory has been worked over with hydraulics until the very mountain has been encroached upon. It was not, however, until later years that lode mining was prosecuted with any extent. High up the mountain ledges were discovered and located and have been worked to a greater or less extent and with flattering results. The mineral zone of the district is paralleled with quartz ledges carrying varying values, some of which are of leviathan proportions and of wonderful promise. The principal lode of the district is the "Robinson" and "Austin," which was discovered and staked as far back as the eighties, and now embraces a group of seven claims. This property is owned by the Idaho Gold Mining company, composed exclusively of Salt Lake people. But this is only one of the many ledges of the camp and in which there are now several hundred patented properties. The uniform strike of the ledges of the district is northwest to southeast, and the dip to the north.

Adjoining the Robinson on the southeast is the Onida group of ten claims, owned by Griffin, Feeney & Nealon, local and California people. A vast amount of surface work has been done on this property, exposing great bodies of free milling rock, running from \$4 to \$40 per ton.

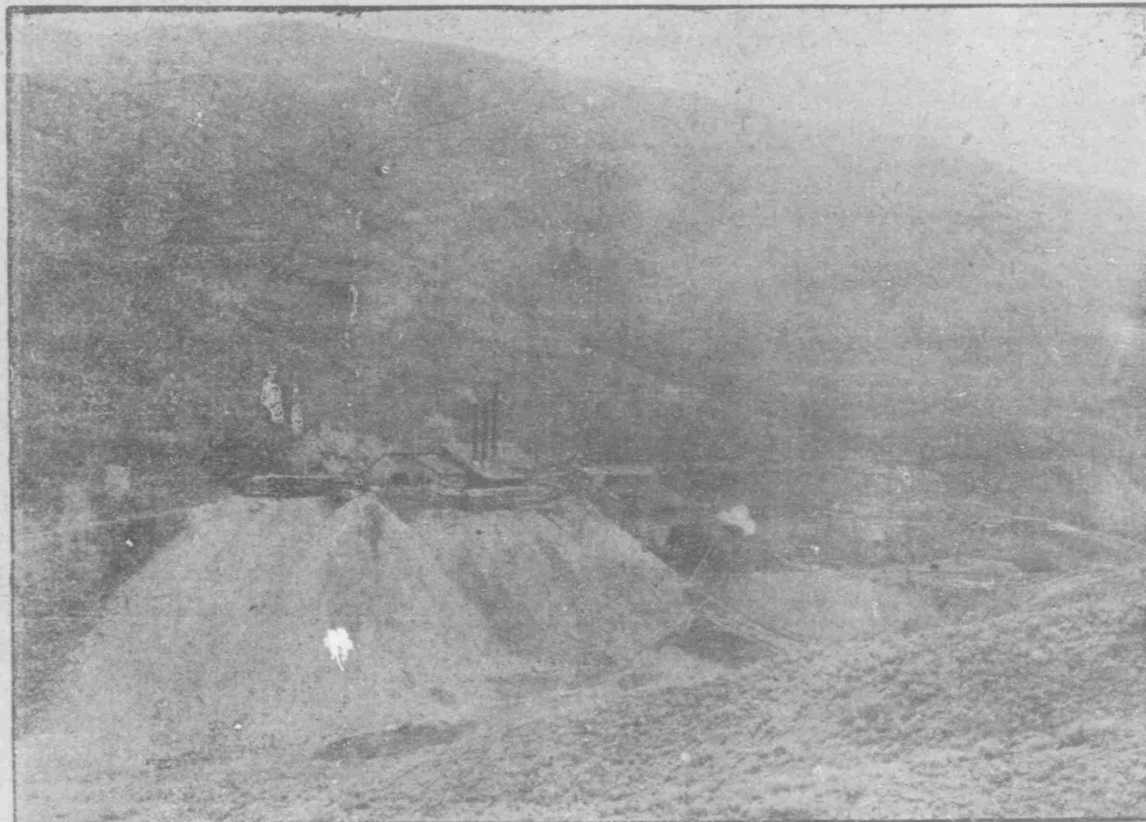
Salt Lovers Interested.

Adjoining the Robinson and Onida on the south is the Rustler-Old Charley group, owned by Messrs. C. O. Nelson and District Judge C. W. Hall of Salt Lake. The ledge on the Rustler-Old Charley is separate and distinct from the Robinson and Onida, but carries good milling values. On this property Judge Hall and associates have run a tunnel several hundred feet, cut the ledge and sunk a winze. This latter is down some seventy feet and is all in ore of a fine grade. In addition to this work there has been run a fifty foot drift upon the vein which is also in good ore.

On the west of the Robinson is the Pittsburgh group, so called. This prop-

erty has been in the throes of litigation for a number of years, but these disputes are about adjusted and active work is promised in the very near future. The Pittsburgh ledge is an extension of the Robinson on the west, and the ore is of the same general character, but the bodies are not so massive. A recent strike in the Putnam-Miller property, still further to the west, is creating great interest in mining circles. The property in question has been purchased by Montana people and is being systematically developed with a view to putting up a mill in the early summer. Their ledge is well defined, is many feet between walls and carries flattering values.

As far back as 1894 a small stamp mill was erected upon the Robinson by the Union Milling & Mining company, and after a ten days' run was destroyed by fire. Immediately thereafter the property was bonded to the Idaho Gold Mining company and the little mill reconstructed, but was no sooner put in motion than litigation ensued between the old Union Milling & Mining company and the new organization. The former at first secured possession of the property and mill and successfully operated the same for a series of years and until ousted by the Idaho



MINNIE MOORE MINE.

supreme court. But while in possession of the old company it permitted a cave to occur in the mine, but the same is now being taken up with a view of actively prosecuting work. The Robinson ledge is from eight to twenty feet thick between walls and the rock carries values from \$4 to hundreds of dollars per ton.

Other Promising Claims.

The Caraboo Chief is a promising younger and is showing up well considering the amount of work expended. It is owned principally by George Halvorsen.

The I. X. L. group is located on the extreme west side of the mountain. Much work has been done on this property in a desultory way, but every opening shows ore. It is owned by J. L. Free and Judge W. C. Hall.

The American Placer company, under the superintendence of Mr. Thomas, operates the ground at the foot of the mountain and at the mouth of Robinson gulch.

The Barnes placers are in Keenan, the next gulch west, but are only worked about three months of the year, owing to scarcity of water, but never fail to yield dust to the owners' satisfaction.

Dance group, Judge Flannery is working his claims nearby; Messrs. Walters and Hershman of New York are working the Wild Cat; some systematic work is being done on the Rained Cloud, heretofore a great producer. A Pocahontas company, under the management of Mr. Peterson, is doing a great deal of development on the Comet group at the head of Deer creek.

The Idaho Democrat group, near Hailey, is turning out its usual quota of galena averaging 150 ounces silver and 65 per cent lead. They have a large force and are driving a long tunnel to tap the vein at great depth. The stock of this company has recently been acquired by I. E. Rockwell of Bellevue and associates. The property is under the management of W. L. Sinton.

Warm Springs Creek.

On Warm Springs creek a new company composed of New York and local parties, is driving a long tunnel on the Ontario group, which in the early '90s produced over \$500,000. Bob Warren is also working his claims near Ketchum.

At Muldoon, Pete Walter and William O'Connor have excellent showings. Fred Briley also has some fine galena in his claims. E. L. Vancil and Charles Hershman recently purchased two claims in this district, which have an almost fabulous showing of galena on the surface, but very little work has been done as the claims were only recently located.

On the divide between Ketchum and Lost River there was a stampede by prospectors this fall. All who went in there are enthusiastic, and exhibit fine specimens of ore carrying copper, silver, lead and gold, but the season was so far advanced little has been done.

At Galena, twenty-five miles north of Ketchum, a Portland (Me.) company recently purchased the old Girard property and surrounding claims. Their work is deserving of more than passing notice. They shipped as a test about a car of ore which went 135 ounces silver, 65 per cent lead and some gold; they now have eight claims there, have installed an air compressor, sawmill, small electric plant, etc., and are driving a tunnel which will be over 1,000 feet long ere it taps the ledge shown above.

Hailey Gold Mines.

Of the gold mines, so-called, near Hailey, the only ones doing systematic work are the Croesus and the Tip Top. The Croesus, owned by Kilpatrick brothers and others of Beatrice, Neb., under the management of Mr. Page is sinking on the vein. The shaft is down now some 1,000 feet, all in high-grade ore. It is understood here that in the spring the present mill, a twenty-stamp, will be more than doubled in capacity. At the Tip Top, owned by J. Q. Packard of Salt Lake, under the management of Captain Lusk, they are also engaged in sinking the main shaft, which is as deep or deeper, and the ore increases in quality and quantity. The

Coeur d'Alenes Send Forth Increased Production
While Wood River Booms Once More.

Beet Sugar Added to the List of Industries During the
Twelvemonth—Many Other Industrial
Companies Organized.

The past year has been the brightest in this vicinity since the boom days of the early eighties.

The mine and farm industries have taken strides hardly comparable to those not living right on the ground and making a study of the conditions.

Of the silver-lead mines, the Minnie Moore, near Bellevue, takes the lead by far, not only in development and production, but in showing the continuity of the ore at great depth, the shaft now being down some 1,200 feet, with high-grade galena (125 ounces silver, 50 per cent lead) in vast bodies, in some places over ten feet solid in width; the management, under I. E. Rockwell, are working some 150 men. The Idaho Consolidated Mines company, also under Mr. Rockwell's direction, is operating the Relief, United States and Maggie, adjoining claims, believed to be on the same vein. The Overland and Con. Virginia, nearby, also have large crews in developing. A new company has secured options on the old Queen of the Hills, adjoining the Minnie, and as soon as they can get to work will open up this old producer. Other claims close by, too numerous to mention, are being operated by the owners and prospective purchasers.

The Compensation company, operating the Dithmer group, near Hailey, have a large body of high-grade silver-lead ore, and are sinking to get depths John Lemp and the Falk estate of Boise have a crew on the Star mine, between Hailey and Bellevue. This property produced wonderfully in past years, under leasery; the owners insist they have the old shoot at depth.

At Bullion a company composed of W. G. Page of Hailey, Charles Hershman of New York and Salt Lake parties have taken hold of the famous Red Elephant and are preparing to do systematic work.

Lipman Tunnel Company.

The Lipman Tunnel company at Bullion is driving a tunnel which, when completed, will be one of the longest in this part of the state, to tap the Bullion mines at depth. Mr. Lipman is also operating the Point Lookout claim there, where he has some fine silver-lead ore.

Nitschke & Heiler are operating the Blue Jay group, near Bullion, and have a good showing. On Deer Creek T. E. Fieette has a force at work on the War

ore of both these mines contains high values in copper, silver and gold.

On Little Smoky several New York companies under the management of C. C. Ruthrauff, Charles Hershman and H. A. Walter, all of New York City, have taken hold of a vast amount of work on their numerous gold properties there. They have a large mill on the ground, but not installed; they have driven thousands of feet of development work, and it is confidently expected that as soon as the mill can be installed it will be kept running uninterruptedly, as there are vast bodies of free gold ore in sight and awaiting extraction.

The Cambridge Mining company has acquired a large tract of placer ground on Little Smoky, and has its hydraulic plant installed ready for work as soon as spring opens up.

It is understood that the shipments of ore from Wood River during the past year by far exceeds any year in the last ten.

The writer, in driving up Wood River valley last fall, for twenty miles above Ketchum, counted twenty-eight separate bands of sheep grazing in the valley bottom; these contained on an average of over 2,500 per band. This vicinity is a Mecca for the sheepmen of southern Idaho as a summer range. You cannot drive anywhere away from the farms without finding numerous bands. Lack of shipping facilities in obtaining cars has been the great drawback. The sheepmen, as a rule, are feeding during the winter, not trusting to the happy-go-lucky range feed.

Farming and Stock Raising.

As with all new countries, the first settlers here are gradually moving out and being succeeded by careful, practical farmers. Farm land brings at least 100 per cent more than ten years ago. The principal crops here are alfalfa, which finds a ready market, but the most is fed by the farmers to their own stock in winter, the cattle grazing in the summer. There is 100 per cent more land in cultivation than there was a decade ago; good, substantial dwellings, outbuildings and stables are taking the place of the former makeshift shacks; the irrigating ditches are being straightened and enlarged, and generally bettered. While hay is the chief crop, I must refer to the small grains produced here. Forty

GRAPE ORCHARD IN NEZPERCE COUNTY, IDAHO.

ties in all parts of the state and land desirable for cultivation or grazing is being selected on every hand. In all 9,234 acres have been rented by the state for cultivation, and 44,014 for grazing purposes in the year just closed. About 4,000 acres of land belonging to the different state institutions has also been disposed of at fancy prices during the year.

The state will sell in 1904, in tracts varying from 40 to 150 acres, twenty-five sections (16,000 acres) of school land, the maximum amount which the state constitution allows to be sold in one year.

Three Carey act projects are so far advanced that their lands have been opened for settlement recently. The companies in charge of these projects are the Mullins Canal company, in Lincoln county; the Twin Falls Land & Water company, in Cassia county; and the American Falls Canal & Power company, in Bingham county. The tract that will be reclaimed by the first named enterprise comprises 6,000 acres, the second 244,000 acres, the third 71,000 acres.

Other companies organized in 1903 to construct large canals and operate under the Carey act are: The Canyon Canal company, which will place water upon 28,000 acres of magnificent ranch land in Canyon county; the Glenn Ferry Canal company and the Washington Irrigation & Colonization company, operating in Elmore and Owyhee counties.

Settlers are flocking to the Twin Falls tract and a large number of desert conquerors have already settled on the lands under the Mullins and American Falls canals. With a climate ideal for agricultural and horticultural purposes, productive soil varying in depth from four to twenty feet, and an abundance of water assured, the outlook for this section of the state is most encouraging.

Tremendous Crops Over State.

Fremont county, with its machinelike system of canals, has just turned out a grain crop of unparalleled magnitude. Enormous quantities of hay have been harvested and countless acres of sugar beets seeded down.

Affiliated with the state land sales is the system of improvement for schools. During 1903 the state land department has purchased improvement bonds of school districts in all parts of Idaho aggregating in value \$210,000. The entire amount was expended in building, enlarging and furnishing school houses.

It is estimated that over 25,000 farms are now under cultivation within the boundaries of Idaho, about half of which are irrigated. The average value of farm land is placed at \$15 an acre, the irrigated lands being appraised at from \$3 to \$5 an acre higher than the unirrigated. For land actually watered values run from \$35 to \$100 an acre, while irrigated orchards have changed hands at from \$75 to \$200 per acre.

last year with phenomenal success. With a little more skill in packing they will hold their own with California and Oregon in both foreign and domestic markets. A carload of Idaho pears brought the highest price of the year in New York, while the Idaho plums and prunes more than maintained their already enviable reputation.

Mining Development.

The output of lead, silver and gold from the mines of the Coeur d'Alenes has, according to conservative estimates, increased 10 to 12 per cent in 1903. The big producing mines have increased their productive capacity and a number of new and promising properties have been opened up. Experts declare that fully 55 per cent of the lead product of the United States had its origin in Shoshone county in the past twelve months.

Among the notable discoveries of the year were the gold mines on Loon Creek in Custer county, notably the Lost Packer, the showing made in the White Knob copper properties at Mackay, the discoveries in Thunder Mountain, where many good ledges of gold-bearing rock have been uncovered, and the state mining strikes recently made in the Black Warrior district near Atlanta in Elmore county.

The copper properties in the Seven Devils district of Washington county are reported to be showing up remarkably and there are encouraging stories from the Mountain View district, the Black Lake district and the Heath district in this county.

Owyhee county, in which the celebrated De Lamar and Trade Dollar properties are located, has more than maintained its reputation as a mineral producer.

By reason of its isolation Lemhi county has been handicapped. Development work on a large number of claims has proved the existence of large and valuable ore bodies, however, which railway communication will, it is predicted, shortly transform into producers.

The Big Creek district, adjoining Thunder Mountain, has been the scene of much intelligent and energy mining development during the summer of 1903 and several properties there have changed hands lately for considerable sums.

Thunder Mountain Development.

Despite the discouraging reports of hundreds of disappointed prospectors who expected to pick up nuggets on the hillsides in Thunder Mountain, this region has proved itself one of the great mineral belts of the west. Several properties have been taken in hand by eastern capitalists during the past year and an enormous quantity of mining machinery is being shipped into Roosevelt. About 200 men will winter in the camp, the number being considerably reduced on account of the scarcity of provisions. It was expected that a state wagon road would have been completed before the snow



HAILEY, IDAHO.